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Title: Need to have clear cut policy on capital punishment.

DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (ANANTNAG): Fifteen years ago 165 people were killed at Oklahoma in a car bomb explosion, but Americans didn't openly celebrate the killer's death penalty, although many must have felt that he had rightly deserved it. Illness, bereavement and death even of one's opponent call for sympathy or mourning at least in public. An American lady who had lost her husband and daughter commented that 165 persons have already died, one more death will not revive any of them. Common argument that it serves as a deterrent but experience has proved that potential criminal believes he can escape conviction at least, noose. A British publisher once wrote, it is not the severity of the punishment that acts as a deterrent, it is the certainty of the punishment. Another argument in favour of death penalty is, why spend huge money by keeping him alive in prison. Why not then everybody considered a threat be sent to gallows like in Stalin's Soviet Russia. One normally spends years and years in prison before he faces noose. The pain his family suffers. I demand that Government should have a clear-cut policy on Capital Punishment.